

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An ophthalmic ointment for treating infective eye diseases, containing as an active ingredient from 0.01 to 5.0% of vancomycin hydrochloride.

2. (Previously amended) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said eye diseases are caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

3. (Previously amended) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said eye diseases are caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (MRSE).

4. (Previously amended) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said infective eye disease is keratitis.

5. (Previously amended) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said infective eye disease is keratitis.

6. (Previously presented) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said vancomycin hydrochloride is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 3.0%.

7. (Previously presented) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said vancomycin hydrochloride is present in an amount of from 0.3 to 1.0%.

8. (Previously presented) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a member of the group consisting of liquid paraffin, white petrolatum, purified lanolin, gelation hydrocarbon, a polyethylene glycol, hydrophilic ointment base, white ointment base, simple ointment base, and mixtures thereof.

9. (Previously presented) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 8, further comprising an excipient selected from the group consisting of antiseptics, surfactants, stabilizers, alcohols, esters, oils, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Previously presented) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 9, said antiseptic is selected from the group consisting of parahydroxybenzoate, chlorobutanol, and benzalkonium chloride, said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polysorbate 80, polyoxyl 40 stearate, and polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oil, said stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of sodium edetate, citric acid, and salts thereof, said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, lanolin alcohol, and cetanol, said ester is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl myristate, and ethyl

linoleate, and said oil is selected from the group consisting of olive oil and triglycerides of middle-chained fatty acids.

11. (Previously presented) A method of treating infective eye diseases comprising topically administering an effective amount of the ophthalmic ointment of Claim 1.

12. (New) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said member is a mixture of polyethylene glycols known as Macrogol ointment base.

13. (New) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising an excipient selected from the group consisting of antiseptics, surfactants, stabilizers, alcohols, esters, oils, and mixtures thereof.

14. (New) An ophthalmic ointment as claimed in Claim 13, said antiseptic is selected from the group consisting of parahydroxybenzoate, chlorobutanol, and benzalkonium chloride, said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of polysorbate 80, polyoxyl 40 stearate, and polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oil, said stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of sodium edetate, citric acid, and salts thereof, said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, lanolin alcohol, and cetanol, said ester is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl myristate, and ethyl linoleate, and said oil is selected from the group consisting of olive oil and triglycerides of middle-chained fatty acids.